

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

## ENQUIRY NOW ON COLIN'S DEATH

The mysterious death of Colin Roach, killed by a shotgun blast in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station on the evening of Wednesday 12 January, has had far-reaching implications well beyond the borough boundaries.

Nearly fifty people have now been arrested and charged with various offences after three separate demonstrations. Policing in the Stoke Newington and Dalston areas has been greatly stepped up. Hackney Council is reported to be thinking seriously about withholding the £4 million it collects on the rates on behalf of the Metropolitan Police. Ernie Roberts MP has warned that there will be a complete breakdown in law and order in the borough unless there is a full enquiry.

### PEACEFUL

A major demonstration was held on Saturday 22 January to press for the public enquiry. Led by Colin Roach's parents, family friends, councillors from Hackney and Tower Hamlets, Ernie Roberts and Paul Boateng and prominent members of the local black communities, about 500 people marched peacefully from Hackney Town Hall to Stoke Newington police station. The march was well-stewarded and numerous calls for restraint and dignity were made by the organisers. Two minutes silence were observed as the march stopped outside Stoke Newington police station.

Despite this restraint, the police were quick later in the day to link a robbery on a jeweller's shop in Northwold Road with the march, despite the fact that it took place before the march arrived there. They also acted with great speed to break up a spontaneous demonstration by a few dozen youths who returned to the High Street after the march finished with a rally on the common.

The only national newspaper reporter who seems to have

been present in the High Street was from the Morning Star, and his account varies quite considerably from that published in a number of other newspapers. He wrote: "In several incidents, groups of police dragged men into vans after a supermarket window was broken. People watching insisted angrily that those being grabbed had done nothing. A black woman who voiced her disgust at the police was dragged away... Four Hackney councillors who were watching went into the police station to register complaints."

On Wednesday 26 January the full meeting of Hackney Council debated the affair and passed an emergency resolution calling for an enquiry. The motion was proposed by Clancy Etienne, who set out the many serious



Photo: Ernie Greenwood.

Friends of Colin Roach show their anger on the demonstration calling for a public enquiry.

questions that had to be answered. What part, if any, did the police have in Colin's death? Why didn't they detain the driver of the car which dropped him in the High Street? Why was it three hours before his father was told? Why was the family's house searched? Why was his mother assaulted during the search? Why did the police put out a press statement saying that Colin had been

suffering from depression when his family say that this was not the case?

### RESPONSIBLE

Council leader Anthony Kendall commended the seriousness and responsibility shown by the black community. He said that it had been a small step forward for the new police commander to call a meeting

with community organisations etc, but there were still major questions outstanding. He pointed out that the policing of the demonstration on the previous Saturday had caused massive disruption to the life of the borough, yet the Council had no influence over the police.

It was left to Patrick Kodikara to cause the

*Continued on page 4.*

## Snoop Squad alert

Unemployed people in Hackney are mounting a campaign to counter this month's visit to the area by the Special Claims Control Squad.

The squad is the DHSS's answer to the SPG; during the next six weeks it will attempt to reduce the number of claimants. Intimidation is a favorite weapon in their 'war on scroungers'. If you are unlucky enough to be a victim of one of their visits, remember that you do not have to co-operate with the squad. You can

demand that your case be handled by local social security staff.

A group of people from the Unemployed Centre met with CPSA officials representing Hackney DHSS workers to prepare a joint leaflet to distribute to people as they sign on.

### Topics

The anti-Special Claims Squad campaign was just one topic covered at the first

open meeting held at the Hackney Centre for the Unemployed. The 20 people who attended also discussed:

--The Women's Signing-on campaign; funding is available to hire a short-term organiser.

--Finding new premises for the Centre.

--Organising courses, social activities and a newsletter at the Centre.

--The arrests of unemployed

people at Colin Roach demonstrations.

--The 1983 People's March for Jobs.

The Centre is just beginning to get off the ground. Lesley Lee, the Centre's Administrator, said: "This centre should be run by the Unemployed themselves."

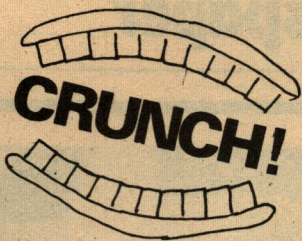
"What we want are more hands," added Ian Lambert.

Open meetings are held 2:00 p.m. every Wednesday at the Centre, which is on the top floor of the Hackney Baths in Lower Clapton Road.





# Kendall bites back



Dear HPP,

Both articles about industrial relations in the January issue of HPP saddened me. Not because of the criticism - criticism is good and we all need it - but because of the tone. I want to try and concentrate on Les Skeates's piece.

This Leadership makes no claims to infallibility. I often wince when I think of the mistakes that we have made. We reacted slowly and badly to the request for the one hour off the working week. Mistakes were made on both sides during the GLC dispute. Maybe there were others.

The nostalgia in Les Skeates's article really surprised me. I felt that he wanted the return of the good old days when the lines were clearly drawn and everybody knew which side they were on.

This Council is committed to a good relationship with its workforce and trade unions. However there is no automatic guarantee that this can be done successfully, and maybe expectations were anyway too high after May 1982 that everything would go well. Our desire to develop a positive relationship must be acknowledged. We have called numerous informal meetings with trade union representatives and met stewards in their separate groups, to discuss future plans and areas of common concern. We want to build a constructive creative atmosphere. But this atmosphere has threatened all of us; maybe it is easier when the lines are clearly drawn and roles well understood and traditional.

## SOLIDARITY

We have been working in other ways to show our solidarity with trade unions. We are a campaigning Council. We showed solidarity with the Health Workers. We are playing a full and positive part in the Health Campaign centred around St Leonards. We have promoted meetings about lead in the atmosphere and the need for a decent public transport system in London.

Very importantly, we have taken on the Government, not only in the courts. We are fighting for the return of the money that has been stolen from Hackney. This is a fight to preserve jobs. The campaign of public involvement has included touring the borough with a loud speaker and leaf-letting and petitioning on many weekends. Also we have promoted many anti-cuts public meetings.

Crucially we have rooted decentralisation in a socialist framework. This is part of the defence of Council

jobs, and building the unity of local people, the workforce and the Council. We have firmly stated that decentralisation will not result in any cuts in service or staffing.

We are working hard to fill manual workers jobs and create new ones, often to fill the gaps that we have created in the past. This Council has a larger percentage of its workforce as manual workers than many other London authorities, such as Lambeth or Islington.

On becoming Leader I was confronted by files of requests to fill posts. My first priority was to agree the manual worker posts. The system has now been changed so that Chairs of Committees in consultation with their committees fill these posts in relation to the needs in their service areas. We have filled 54 manual posts and created 86 new ones.

The average wage for manual workers is £800 p.a. higher than the average nationally. Nevertheless as a Council we ought to move to a minimum wage policy.

## BAD START

I mentioned earlier that we made a bad start on the 37 hour week and the single status discussion. (Single status will mean that we will abolish the distinction between manual and officer grades.) But we are now moving forward to implement the single status idea, and we hope on 1 April 1983 we will be starting the 37 hour week. Because this threatens DLO jobs, this will only be implemented when the law has been changed.

The workforce nursery will soon be open and will help in the many actions this Council is taking to promote the employment of women in our workforce.

Our positive action programme has created 50 jobs exclusively for Hackney residents. I would point out that 50 per cent of the successful applicants are black and we have appointed more women than men. Also people will have noticed that recently we have advertised 28 trainee posts exclusively for ethnic minority groups. In practice, these trainee posts will be mainly for young black people.

I think all those actions show our commitment to our workforce and commitment to radical change in Hackney.

The current NUPE dispute is a difficult one to comment on. There will probably be a court or tribunal case following our recent action. We are determined to see our policies implemented and never allow officers to obstruct them.

## LETTERS

This administration is committed to create an open style of government, where trade unions and community feel free to contribute to change. Co-options onto all committees has been extended to include more tenants and ethnic groups. It has brought with it a certain amount of chaos. This chaos has unsettled many people, including Councillors. We are trying to work in partnership with the trade union movement to achieve our joint socialist goals. There is a need for discussion on policies and principles and not just reaction to specific proposals. We need to develop into a creative relationship not a reactive one. Formal negotiations are only the last stage in what should be a continuing process of properly organised discussion among trade unions and between them and Councillors. To achieve this we need to provide trade unions with better resources. A better office base and more information.

One can never wipe slates clean. We must all strive to get better relationships in the Town Hall, based on clear political objectives centred around decentralisation and a strong anti-racist policy. We must continue to strive to forge a new and creative partnership with our workforce. We are open to discussion about where we have gone wrong. This must be a joint process. Real radical socialist change will only occur in Hackney if we can achieve this.

Anthony Kendall,  
Leader, Hackney Council.

## Going Local

Dear HPP,

As a Hackney resident very much in favour of Going Local, I was distressed to find the recent 'consultation' exercise so unnecessarily mechanical and preordained. As a result I believe it was much too close to PR and manipulation.

In the next round I hope the Council will spend its energy in honest discussion of issues that are not yet decided, preferably finding ways to use the new local structure to take us towards a 'town meeting' type of democracy.

Yours sincerely,  
N.Foy, N16.

## FALLOUT

Dear HPP,

There are none so blind as those who do not want to see.

Have all Governments gone mad and blind? Don't they know that chemicals rise away from the solid, unless it has a chemical pull?

All the fallout may earth itself but most will rise and in time collect together and radiate around the Earth, cutting all outside attachments, such as the contact of spaceships, satellites, world radio, etc.

Just like Humpty Dumpty they will fall back to Earth. It takes time, 1984 perhaps.

M. Monro.

## HACKNEY REVISITED

Dear HPP,

I moved from Stepney to Hackney in 1939 and stayed there till 1979. On the occasions I return to Hackney, I realise how right I was to move away from London.

It was very disturbing to see dust bags strewn everywhere, especially in Ridley Road. It was also depressing to see so many shops, which used to be the pride of Hackney, either empty or in very poor shape with broken and boarded up windows.

I noticed more young people walking in the Kingsland Road and Stoke Newington Road area. The reason I should imagine is because more people are out of work than there were in the past.

As I usually do when I visit Hackney, I went to Centreprise to get a copy of Hackney People's Press.

I read the "Socialism at Work?" article by Les Skeates. From my observations of 'socialism at work' in the socialist countries, his outpourings prove Skeates to be a political ignoramus.

Does Mr. Skeates realise that if it were not for the crushing of the so-called "Solidarity" phoney trade union movement, America and Western Germany would have over-run Poland in 1982 and the C.N.D. and other peace movements throughout the world would have been crushed.

My best wishes to your readers for peace and democracy, with sincere wishes that one day we shall have a Socialist Hackney.

A.Sirotkin, Jaywick, Essex.

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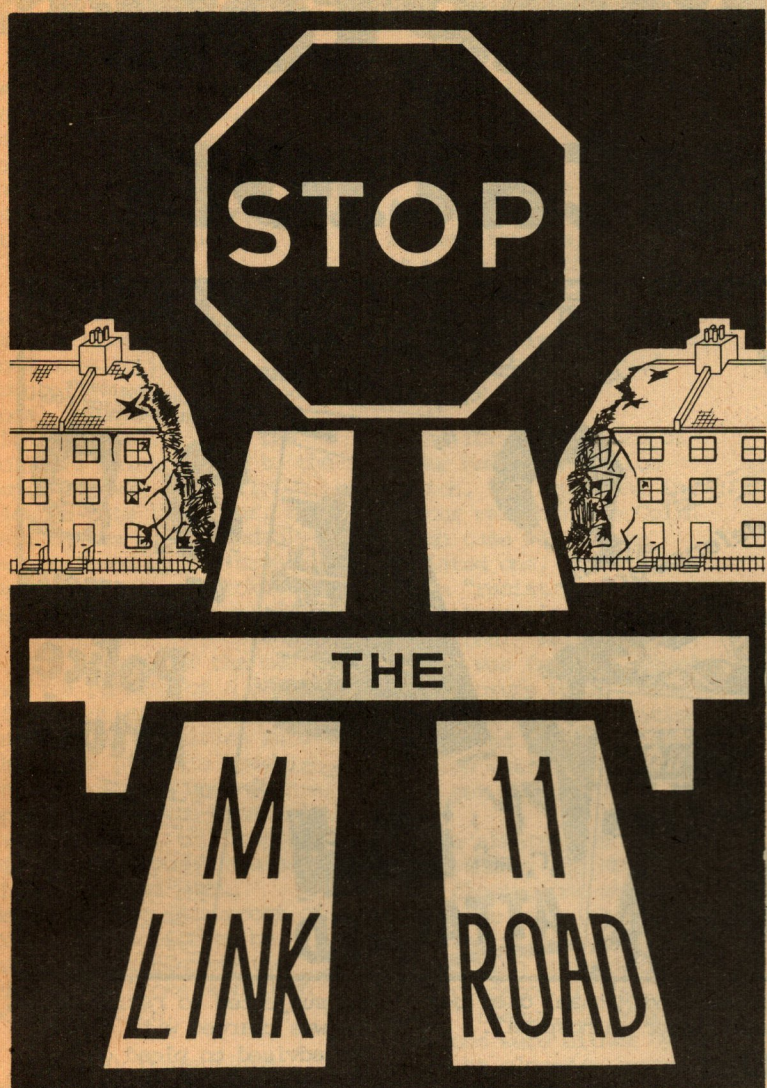
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# McARTHUR CAMPAIGN

Erla McArthur and her four children are still waiting to see if they are allowed to stay together in Hackney. The Home office is reconsidering the McArthur family's case after Hackney clergy and MP Stanley Clinton-Davis made appeals on their behalf.

Mrs McArthur came to Britain in 1960, but returned to Ghana in 1972 to care for mother, who was ill. She came back to England in 1980 at the insistence of her British born daughters, who were homesick for Hackney.

Despite Tory propaganda about the sanctity of the family, the government wanted to deport Mrs McArthur and her six year old son Eon. Daughters Gwendoline (18), Andrea (16) and Simone (12) are legally entitled

to stay in Britain. The McArthur family are just one of the many families that are being broken up and disrupted by the Nationality Acts. It took intensive campaigning just to win the family a temporary reprieve.

The McArthur Family Campaign is upset by what it feels to be a lack of support from the Council. When the Women's Committee failed to take up the campaign, Hackney Black People's Association spokesperson Lester Lewis complained: "The slogan, 'Hackney Listens to Women' apparently only applies to white women." Councillor Marcelle Chissick, Chair of the Women's Committee told HPP that Mrs McArthur's



Above: Erla McArthur  
Below: The McArthur Children.

Pics: Caribbean Times

case is on the agenda for the Committee's meeting on February 17th.

The McArthur Campaign is planning a meeting at the Town Hall later this month to organise a picket of the Home Office. For details contact Lester Lewis at the Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel: 254-1193

## Motorway threat

Once again the Government is threatening to make conditions worse for the people of Hackney with its proposal for the Mill-Hackney link road, described by Councillor Ruth Gee as 'devastating'.

The road, as proposed by the Department of Transport, will be a six-lane motorway-type road from the Green Man roundabout to the A102 at Hackney Wick and a new interchange at the junction of Homerton Road and Eastway.

### Local devastation

Local residents and the Council are united in their opposition to the scheme because of the harm it will do. In particular, it is expected to cause the following:

- increased traffic through all Hackney, particularly round the Mare Street and Wick Road areas;
- Homerton High Street, Cassland Road, Victoria Park Road and Eastway will suffer especially badly. For those unlucky enough to live on these roads it will be like a non-stop all-day rush hour;
- there will be traffic queueing all day on Trowbridge estate;
- greater danger to pedestrians, who will be more likely to have an accident;
- more delays for buses;
- loss of open space;
- chaos while the road is being built.

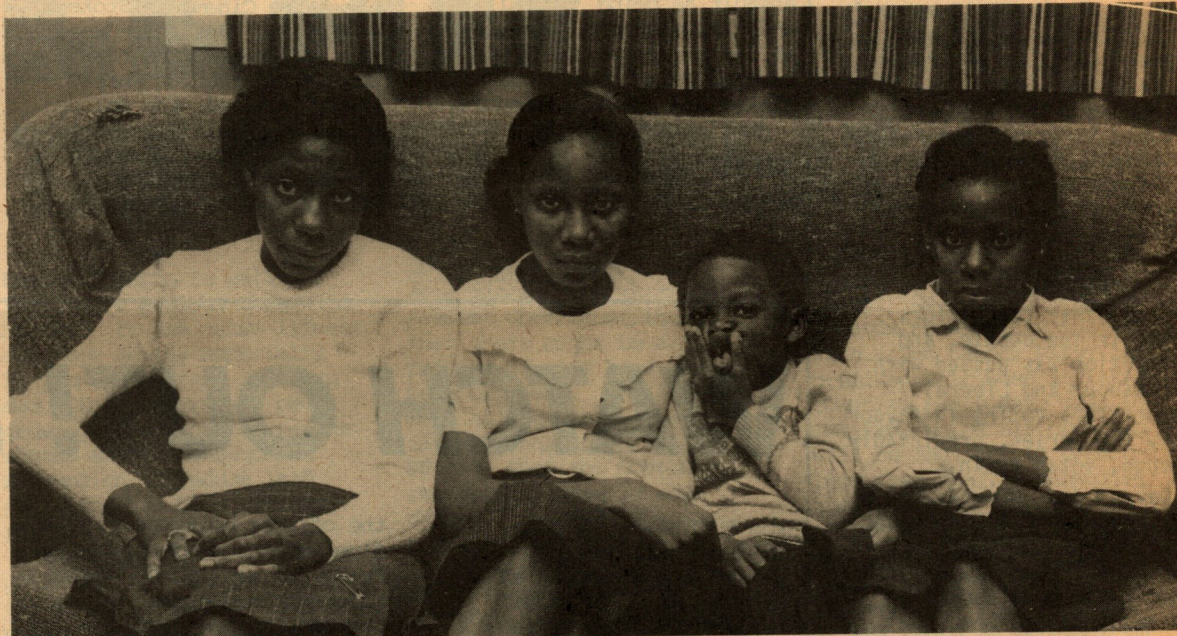
Local people are naturally horrified at proposals which even the Department of Transport admit would cause a 90% increase in the traffic level in Homerton Road, and would bring little benefit to the people of Hackney.

Very little time is being

given by the Government for consideration of all the information on the scheme. The public enquiry is in fact to open on 15 February (at the municipal offices in Leyton).

If the Council cannot bring enough pressure to bear to stop the scheme, it will propose a number of changes which it hopes will lessen the impact on residents.

If you wish to put forward any evidence against the proposals, either oral or written, and would like further information, contact Derek Cullen on 986 3123 x 457 or John Sanderson on 739 5137.



## Class crisis

In an area with mass unemployment and many single parent families there is a high demand for the wide variety of adult education provided by the Hackney Adult Education Institute.

Classes are provided not only on the main sites but wherever there is a demand: currently they are held at 103 different locations. They range from popular practical classes like Tin Whistle Playing to more basic needs like English as a second language.

But according to a report by Hackney Adult Education Institute, "Adult Education matters in Hackney" the Institutes current allocation of tutor, creche and secretarial hours is fully committed, and due to the great demand, they are being forced to hold waiting lists for many classes.

And it's not just a matter of high demand in Hackney. This area has less provision than nearly all the other areas of Inner London. If you look at the number of tutor hours provided per head of population, Hackney is just about bottom of the league, with just 0.53 hours. Despite the overall lack of teaching hours, the Hackney Institute to its credit manages to provide an above average proportion of teaching hours devoted to special needs work - 55% as against an average of 35%.

### Operational difficulties

Looking at the conditions in which the Institute operates, there are accommodation and other difficulties at virtually all the main branches. These range from a detailed catalogue of problems at some branches to the blunt summary: "this building is falling down", describing Hackney College

## POPULAR PLANNING

As part of its Popular Planning programme to regenerate the London economy, the GLC has allocated 750 tutor hours to Hackney Adult Education Institute. David Davies has been appointed to support educational projects concerned with jobs, the economy and socially useful production.

in Ayrson Road, Stoke Newington.

The Institute has put forward various recommendations to help ease the accommodation and resource crisis but states that the necessary funding must be in addition to the existing funds, so that the level of tutor and creche hours can be increased to meet the demands.

If you would like more details, or think you can help in any way, then contact the Principal, J.D. Richards, Hackney AEI, Chelmer Road, E9.

Popular planning aims to challenge the professional planning monopoly by involving the public more actively in planning decisions.

David Davies has already been in contact with some Hackney groups and wants to meet with other groups, for example:

- Trade unions fighting redundancies and privatisation;
- Women's groups campaigning for the right to an independent income and jobs for women;
- Minority ethnic groups burdened with economic difficulties;
- Community initiatives to create jobs or to demand services which could create jobs.

If you would like to know more or have any ideas, contact David at Hackney AEI, Chelmer Road, E9. Tel: 533-2426.



ENQUIRY  
NOW

Continued from page 1.

sensational report that the Hackney Gazette was looking for. However, they omitted to report the substantial part of his speech which was a searing indictment of the "day in, day out oppression of black people by the police in Hackney." He said, "99.9 per cent of the black people of Hackney would say that they have no confidence in the police. The police behave viciously towards black people, and the white working class too. It is the contention amongst black people that the police murdered Colin Roach." Then he said that he agreed with that. "Colin Roach was murdered and the police did it." He went on to say that the Council had to take account of the ratepayers of Hackney's views. "30 per cent of the ratepayers of Hackney are black. Why should the Council pay the police to practise repression on us?"

Another black councillor, Ken Hanson, echoed Kodikara's assertion that the police see groups of black people together as a threat. "As soon as black people march," he said, "the police say there's going to be trouble. On Saturday's march racist police were there to create trouble." He had the details, he added, of three separate incidents where trouble had nearly occurred because of police provocation.

**PASSED**

Many other councillors spoke in the debate, and the motion was passed with all Labour and Liberal councillors voting in favour. Only the Tories, predictably enough, voted against.

Day by day, demands for a full enquiry into the case grow. Even the Commission for Racial Equality has now said that there should be an enquiry into both the death of Colin Roach, and policing in Hackney generally. Their spokesperson told The Times, which printed a whole page feature on the case, on Friday 28 January, that the enquiry should look at "why in spite of Lord Scarman's recommendations and the improvements in Lambeth and other parts of London, police-community relations are so bad in Hackney and getting worse. Complaints are coming not just from a few radicals, but from really quite substantial sections of the black community."

If the Home Secretary (who is the police authority for London) refuses to set up such an enquiry, then Hackney Council may well do so. Brynley Heaven, chair of the Police Committee, told HPP that they would consider it, if the Roach family wanted it. But the police themselves would almost certainly refuse to co-operate with such a step, and this would make it very difficult to get deep down at the truth. Only the Home Secretary can force the police to reveal themselves in public - and all pressure must be put on him to set up the enquiry.

Stoke Newington's  
racist reputation

Stoke Newington police station is probably the most notorious in London, with a reputation for racist attacks and abuse that stretches back many years. In addition to the "racism they practice day in and day out" (as alleged by Cllr Patrick Kodikara) a number of particular cases have grabbed the headlines.

**1976**

In September 1976, a middle-aged black couple David and Lucille White were attacked and severely beaten in their home by 17 police officers from Stoke Newington. When the Whites took a court action against the police in an attempt to get compensation, the police then charged them with assault. This was thrown out, and the Whites case against the police came to the High Court, in front of Mr Justice Mars Jones. He awarded the couple record damages of £51,000, and described the assault as being "brutal" and "inhuman" and the attempt of the police to cover up the case as being "monstrous, wicked and shameful conduct."

**1978**

In December 1978, a black



youth, Michael Ferreira, was attacked and stabbed by three white youths outside the Astra Cinema in Stoke Newington. His friends carried him up the road to the police station where, it was alleged, the police were not at all interested in the fact that he was severely injured. An ambulance took 45 minutes to

arrive, and Michael died two hours later in hospital.

**1981**

In November 1981, Nellie Knight and two of her daughters were taken from her house to Stoke Newington Police station after a domestic row with her neighbours. She was attacked violently, thrown into a van

and subjected to racist abuse. She was charged with assault and advised to plead guilty. This she refused to do, and then she was charged with grievous bodily harm as well! When the cases came to court, she and her daughters were acquitted on all the major charges and the jury failed to agree on one of the minor charges.

WATCH OUT! New Bill about

The Police and Criminal Evidence Bill will soon be passed by Parliament and become law. Its second reading has already been passed by a majority of 82. This bill will make major changes in police procedures and would greatly extend their powers.

Opposition to the bill is wide. From the National Council for Civil Liberties to local groups such as Hackney Community Action and Hackney Council for Racial Equality. Ian Haig of HCRE describes the bill as being "very oppressive with its substantial extension of police powers with little in the way of protection for the individual".

What changes are about to be made and how will they affect us?

**STOP AND SEARCH:** This will be possible, for example when an officer reasonably suspects someone of carrying an offensive weapon. As everyday items such as keys, combs, etc, can be classed as offensive weapons, there would be little to stop anyone from being stopped and searched at any time.

**ARREST:** The power to arrest without warrant will be extended to include non-imprisonable offences where

the officer believes a given name and address to be false, as well as for other minor offences such as obstructing the highway. There are no safeguards, so if a police officer says that he/she doesn't believe your address, or just feels like nicking for obstruction because you happen to be occupying a square foot of tarmac, then tough!

**AT THE STATION:** A time limit has now been placed on the period of time you can be kept in custody after arrest but before being charged. Good - but the upper limit is four days! And for the first 48 hours you would have no right of access to a lawyer.

**FINGER PRINTS AND BODY SAMPLES:** Powers will be given enabling the police to take fingerprints and some body samples. For example, nail scrapings, without consent, using 'reasonable force' - a virtual licence to assault a suspect should he wish to refuse.

**SEARCH OF PREMISES AND VEHICLES:** Powers to set up road blocks, and search buildings would be extended, on the justification of helping deal with 'serious arrestable offences'. In reality this could mean any

arrestable offence which the officer concerned considers serious! In some cases this would mean that the confidential records of professional advisors, and others, eg, doctors, social workers, lawyers, journalists, priests, etc. could be examined even when the person holding the records is not suspected of any offence.

**OTHER CHANGES:** This bill

will bring about many other changes dealing with the treatment of children, confessions, the mentally ill or handicapped, as well as other too numerous to detail. Most are undesirable.

**OMISSIONS:** Safeguards to prevent the police abusing the proposed new powers are absent. Also nothing has been included to deal with telephone tapping and other surveillance methods, or to introduce taping of police interviews.

It seems unlikely that the bill will be substantially amended in the committee stage. Nevertheless, Hackney Council for Racial Equality argues that it must be fought 'tooth and nail' so as to demonstrate public protest and outrage at the huge extension of uncontrolled police powers with all the appalling consequences and dangers that flow from that'.

The National Council for Civil Liberties at 21 Tabard Street, London SE1, have produced a special issue of their magazine 'Rights' on the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, available for 45p (post free); leaflets are also available (free with an sae).





# Police debate

Two major issues at the moment are the death of Colin Roach, and nationally, the new legislation proposed under the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill (see separate articles in this issue).

These issues were focussed upon as the main item at the last open meeting of Hackney Community Action, the local 'umbrella' organisation of local community groups. Although the topic of the police's relationship to the community was originally planned late last year, the meeting was understandably overshadowed by the tragic death of Colin at Stoke Newington police station.

The outcome of the meeting was the passing of a resolution which called for independent inquiries into the death of Colin Roach, and policing in Hackney, opposition to the Criminal Evidence Bill, the dropping of charges brought against those arrested when demonstrating in support of Colin, the police to be made accountable and the closure of Stoke Newington police station.

The only contentious points were the question of police accountability and the call for the closure of the police station.

What does accountability entail? Is police accountability and involvement in the community a desired objective? Perhaps they should be seen as separate issues? Perhaps police accountability is desirable but do we want to have greater involvement with the police at present? Is

it to our benefit, to that of the police against us, or what?

For instance the East London Workers against Racism representatives argue that it was a good thing that people had little faith in the police as the police were an anti-working class organisation and would continue as such.

As for the closure of Stoke Newington police station, the argument in favour was that the Colin Roach case was not an isolated one, the station was a "racist den" where many atrocities had been committed. Fair enough, but it was further argued that closure would 'show our anger' at the station's record and that you had to make an extreme demand to even get noticed".

The alternative view, supported by the HPP, was that closing one station would not solve the problem of a racist police force. It was also unrealistic and gave credence to the 'bad apple' theory, ie other stations were either OK or could be closed/reformed! In the end the mood of anger was such that the proposal for closure was carried.

All in all a lively and interesting debate which added the support of local groups to the Roach Family Support Committee's demands and activities.

HPP would like to hear from anyone about the issues raised here. Write to 'Letters' Hackney People's Press, 47a Grayling Road, London N16.

## ASBESTOS AT HOME

Did you realise that at least 20 estates in Hackney have asbestos in their construction?

Although the dangers of asbestos have been known for over twenty years it is only recently that the dangers have become widely known, especially since last year's TV programme "Alice - a fight for life".

Asbestos can cause cancer, in particular mesothelioma, and asbestosis - all fatal diseases of the lung or stomach. Like radioactivity, there is no safe dose of asbestos. All who come into contact with it are at risk and the symptoms may not appear for many years (from 10 to 40 years in the case of mesothelioma).

Although asbestos has been banned in Hackney Council houses built since 1976, this did not affect older properties or even more recently built GLC estates. Even if you don't live in a council house you can't be sure that you will escape contact with asbestos. It is everywhere! In floors, ceilings, insulation, hot air heating systems- brakes, clutches and even some plastics, textiles and paper.

If you thought that only blue asbestos was dangerous

you are wrong. All types of asbestos are equally dangerous. The different colours are only evident when the mineral is mined. Ageing and heat turns all asbestos a similar colour.

Although money has been allocated under the 1982/83 housing investment programme for the purchase of asbestos removal equipment, it will not be possible to remove safely all asbestos in Hackney houses immediately.

If you suspect there is asbestos in your house don't try to rip it out yourself. Removing asbestos without proper training, equipment and safeguards is more dangerous than leaving it where it is.

Trying to remove asbestos yourself may release millions of small invisible fibres into the air which can be inhaled. Again like undetectable radiation, you will not notice anything until it is too late.

If you are worried about asbestos in your home tell the local environment health officer and contact the Federation of Hackney Tenants' Associations, which is keeping an independent and up-to-date record of the asbestos problem in Hackney.



# LEAD

## THE DAILY THREAT

Lead pollution is well-known as a serious threat to health. It can cause illness and even death, especially in young children. Concern about the dangers has been growing in Hackney in recent months and in consequence a campaign to reduce lead pollution has been steadily gaining ground.

The major cause of the pollution is lead in petrol and moves to abolish its use were made at a public meeting held last November.

Lead damages people in a number of ways. It is cumulative and the level of lead in people's bodies is generally higher than it used to be. It can cause brain damage and death. Increased blood lead levels in children cause more behavioural problems and a decrease in intelligence.

Lead passes into the body in several ways - from paint, food, water, air, soil and dust. Lead solder in cans is another source. But the most important contribution - more than all the rest for most of the population - is made by lead in petrol. This causes widespread contamination. The air in London is heavily polluted with it; it settles as dust on everything we touch, even food grown anywhere near a main road is contaminated.

A report in the "New Statesman" last year drew attention to the high levels of lead in school playground dust, naming two Hackney schools as among those worst affected. Action is needed and needed fast if more children are not to be put at risk of being poisoned.

### Government action

Some minor signs that the present Government thinks that there might be a problem of some kind have been observed. The level of lead allowed in petrol, for instance, has been reduced, proving that the Government recognises there is some danger. In America however new cars already have to run on lead-free petrol and British cars are being produced for export which can also run on lead-free fuel.

The Government however has no intention of taking any action to reduce the level of lead in petrol here before 1985 - if then. It may see a let-out in the report of the Lawther Committee which published its findings last year. This report said that lead in petrol contributed only 10% of children's total lead intake. However, it did not take into account the lead found in dust or in food - both of them coming mainly from petrol-borne lead. Another report, unpublished as yet, also found that there was no significant damage found in the children it examined caused by lead. In this case, the findings had been 'corrected to make allowance for social factors'.

American studies on the other hand have shown that the effects of lead on children's IQ can be very severe indeed, and that a reduction in blood lead levels has an immediate positive effect.

### Action in Britain

Several organisations, co-ordinated by CLEAR (the

campaign for lead-free air) are working for lead-free petrol, as a first step towards ending this pollution. The Labour Party has promised that when it takes power an early date will be set from which all new cars will be required to use only lead-free fuel. Meanwhile, the GLC, ILEA, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and local community health bodies are all pressing the Secretary of State for action. It was hoped to persuade an MP to use a private member's bill to abolish lead in petrol, but none of the MPs willing to do this were lucky in the draw.

### Hackney action

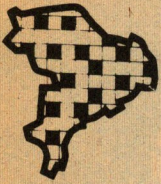
Because of the concentration of traffic in Hackney, the dangers from lead are particularly serious. Hackney Council is currently considering whether it might make some contribution to reducing pollution by running its vehicles on fuels other than leaded petrol - the choice being between diesel, LPG, battery electric or improved petrol. Research is being carried out into lead levels in the area and an exhibition of children's art on the subject is being planned.

### EEC move

Some faint ray of hope may be coming from another direction. The European Government is expected to vote for a ban on lead in petrol before the summer recess - but only for new cars and not to come into force until 1989. The vote is likely to succeed because Tory MEPs have now joined in with the Labour members.



## HACKNEY GOES LOCAL



# Redprint Ready

At last the "redprint" for Hackney's decentralisation programme is beginning to emerge, and we can begin to assess the shape of the new Hackney. The Council passed a set of recommendations from its Policy and Resources Committee at the end of January. In addition, the Labour Group and the Labour Party Local Government Committee (which includes party representatives not on the Council) had a full weekend meeting earlier in the month. And over the last weekend of January councillors, senior officers and community representatives were going away for a weekend in a hotel near Gatwick airport (!) to have a further intense think-in about the shape of things to come.

The principal recommendations that have been agreed so far include:

- There will be no cuts in services or staffing.
- The present ward boundaries will be adopted as the basis for the move to local administration.
- Neighbourhood centres will include offices and depots and a range of facilities as

required by local people. All Council services will be available through the centres.

- There will be only two elected political levels: ward and borough.
- Ward committees will be elected during 1983. Options will be developed about how these will be elected and what powers they will have.
- There will be active liaison and co-operation with other London boroughs going in for decentralisation.

A further proposal to "extend the democracy and responsiveness of the Council and major Committees" by bringing in "powerful representation of Ward committees, trade unions, other major interest groups and community groups" was deferred at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

The first Labour Group/LGC meeting earlier in January also came to some conclusions and what they called points of broad consensus. These included:

- Neighbourhood centres should have executive responsibility and power.

- They will contain and administer social work, welfare rights advice, environmental health, meals on wheels, home helps, reference points for street cleaning and refuse collection. They will control small local environmental improvements and small local planning applications. Workers will work as a team with a flat pay structure

- Neighbourhood committees will be partly elected on a zonal basis and partly from interest or other groups, to ensure wide representation.

The umbrella organisation for Hackney's community groups, Hackney Community Action, has been closely involved with the whole decentralisation process, and has made a number of suggestions as to how the programme should now proceed. The most significant of these are as follows:

- Temporary neighbourhood committees should be set up immediately, so that they can play a part in shaping the form and function of the neighbourhood centres. These must be only temporary, since at the beginning they would

inevitably be dominated by local activists. In HCA's view it is crucial that the final neighbourhood committees are not dominated by familiar faces.

HCA agreed with the views expressed at the Labour Group/LGC weekend that it is important to get the services functioning at a local level first. What people want most of all is an improvement in services. So once the neighbourhood centres exist - and are seen to be providing a better level of service - then people who might not be involved in local activities at the moment might be wanting to take part.

HCA also was very concerned that some of the views that came out of the women's meeting on decentralisation might get lost. It is, after all, mostly women who make the demands on Council services.

The latest development, as this issue goes to press, is the prediction that the "redprint" for decentralisation will now be ready by 8 February. This will be put out for consultation - and the neighbourhood centres should be beginning to be established by May.

## HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

The open editorial meeting for the next issue of HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS will be held at Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8, at 8pm on Wednesday 16 February. If you would like to help write or produce the next issue then please come along.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders, and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If your newsagent doesn't sell it - and you think she or he would like to - then please contact us. We can arrange delivery on sale or return regularly at the beginning of each month.

If you enjoy reading HPP and think that more people should read it please get in touch with us if you are willing to sell a few copies to friends or neighbours or at meetings. Even if you don't have the time to get more fully involved, we would still be pleased to hear from you.

## Fill this space

Reach Hackney's most discerning readership with an ad in HPP!

Whole page £70.00  
Half page £35.00  
One-fifth page £15.00  
One-tenth page £8.00  
One-twentieth page £5.00

These rates are for ads with artwork supplied. If we have to do your artwork it will be charged at cost.

Size of artwork required and other details on request.

## SOLICITORS!

If you need a solicitor in an emergency at the weekend, and don't already have one, you can contact Hackney's own local service on 986 9891.

The scheme, run by Hackney Legal Action Group, is available every weekend from 6 pm on Friday to 9 am on Monday morning. Calls are redirected by the GPO to whichever of a team of solicitors is on duty at the time.

The service is for emergencies only, such as arrest, battering or some landlord/tenant cases.

Hackney Legal Action Group is having a concerted effort to publicise the scheme more widely: it has been in operation since 1977 but is not sufficiently widely known. Posters will be printed and put up in libraries, doctors' surgeries, youth clubs and other public places.

## NEW WOMENS REFUGE

Hackney Women's Aid, which exists to provide refuge and support for women and children who have had to leave home because of violence, is to open a new refuge in the borough towards the end of February. We urgently need all types of household equipment - from cooking utensils to wardrobes - so if you have anything you don't need and which you think we could use, please telephone 837 3762 Mon - Fri before 5pm, or write to PO Box 28, E5. (We have facilities for collection).

## RON, RABBIT, RON

Ron Brown, Hackney's lone SPD MP, was responsible for bringing the breach of parliamentary privilege charge against Ken Livingston last month. 'Cuddly Ken' had said that he intended to publish the names of those London MP's who did not support GLC policy. 'Rabbit' Ron reported him to the House under an obscure clause in the parliamentary rule book.

Invited on to LBC radio the next day to explain himself, Ron spent all of the time whining jealously about his lack of visibility on radio and TV.

When Ron once spoke at the Broadway Market Action

Group, he hogged the floor for two hours. He rabbitied on about a whole gamut of emotive issues that he had single-handedly solved. Somebody who can smuggle 'pensioners' into a discussion about redevelopment just has to be suspect.

Ironically he is often confused with the other Ron Brown in the House of Commons who really means it. As a result Ron occasionally receives letters either praising his radical stance or condemning his Bolshevism.

Still, Ron will probably be facing his own High Noon in June and our bet is that there will be no 'new' politics for him

HPP'S

BENEFIT



## WALKING WOUNDED

## PARKDOWN JETS

## CHATS PALACE

42 Brooksby's Walk, E9

## FRI 4th MARCH

8pm.

£1.50

Unwaged 75p



THE MOST AMAZING MAGAZINE EVER!!

Photo stories, word seekers (with big money prizes!), jokes, BMXing, theatre reviews and lots lots more!

INPRINT is the first magazine by Centerprise Young Photographers. We are a group of young people between 13-18 who meet at Centerprise every Thursday from 6.30-8.30 and on Saturdays from 11.00-1.30. We cover all the aspects of photography, from learning to take your own photographs, developing and printing them. And it's all free!

If you are interested in joining, you will find a form in the magazine.



# WHAT'S ON

## Theatre

### HALF MOON

213 Mile End Road, E1.  
790 4000

Feb 8-19 **THE RETURN OF SAM THE MAN, MP** — a satirical history of the Labour Party. 8.00pm. Tickets £2.50

### Feb 22-28 REHEARSE

**READINGS OF NEW PLAYS**, a chance to see and discuss new productions with the writers, actors and directors.

Tue-Sat, 1.00 & 7.30pm.

Tickets £1 (OAP's & Students 50p)

### THEATRE ROYAL

Gerry Raffles Square, E15.  
534 0301

Feb 1-12 **ANY MINUTE NOW**. Anti-nuclear rock musical. 8.00pm. Tickets £1-f5

(Concessions Mon-Thu for OAP's, unwaged and students).

Feb 24-27 **MORE VARIETY NIGHTS**, hosted by Kate Williams. 8.00pm.

### LITTLE ANGEL MARIONETTE THEATRE

14 Dagmar Passage,  
Cross St, N1. 226 1782

Sats & Suns **THE MARSH KING'S DAUGHTER** by Hans Christian Andersen. 3.00pm. Adults £2.25, Children £1.50. (until 20 March).

Feb 12, 19, 25 & 26 **LANCELOT THE LION**. 11.00am. Adults £1.50, Children £1.00

## Cinema

### ACE

13-15 Stoke Newington Rd,  
N16. 254 2415

From 3 Feb **YOUNG DOCTORS IN LOVE**. Ring Cinema for details.

### ASTRA

119 Stoke Newington Rd,  
N16. 254 0046  
Ring Cinema for Programme.

## Music

### FOX'S WINE BAR

Stoke Newington Church  
St, N16. 254 2709

Ring for details

### THE PEGASUS

106 Green Lanes, N16.

Mondays **LIMEHOUSE**, All ♀  
R'n'B group. £1

Wednesdays **LOBO**, Fusion, £1

Thu 3 **IVORY COASTERS**, Hackney

Highlife. £1.50

Thu 10 **HANK WANGFORD** £2.50

Thu 17 **IVORY COASTERS** £1.50

Thu 24 **HANK WANGFORD** £2.50

Fri 4 **MOTION LOTION** £1.50

Fri 11, 18 & 25 **JUICE ON**

**THE LOOSE**, R'n'B, £1.50

Saturdays **BIG CHIEF**, Pub

Demolition, £1.50

Sun 6 **DA-GAMBA** £1.30

Sun 13, 20 & 27 **REPUBLIC** £1.30

### HACKNEY MUSICIANS COLLECTIVE

Live gigs every Thursday at the Sir George Robey pub (opposite the Rainbow), Finsbury Park. 8.00 - 11.00pm.

Feb 3 **RECESSION** & Support  
Feb 10 **PYRAMID REGGAE BAND** & Support

FEB 17 **PARKDOWN JETS** & **WALKING WOUNDED**

Feb 24 **MONTH IN THE COUNTRY** & Support.

HACKNEY LEISURE SERVICES presents:

Tue 8 **HACKNEY ORCHESTRA** play Tchaikovsky's 1st piano concerto. \*SN 8.00pm.

Thu 10 **CHARLIE WILLIAMS** \*CB 7.30pm.

Thu 10 **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** (No tickets required)

\*H 1.15pm.

Tue 15 **JAZIRA**, local Highlife band. \*SN 7.30pm.

Fri 18 **CLUB NIGHT** with Glen Watson (Over 18's only)

\*CB 7.30 Licensed Bar.

Thu 24 **ROGER AND CO.** Half-Term shows. \*CB 2.15pm, \*SN 7.00pm.

### \*Key:

SN-- Stoke Newington Assembly Hall.

CB-- King's Hall, Hackney Central Baths.

H-- Hackney Assembly Hall.

Admission is free, but tickets are required (except where noted). They can be obtained from Libraries, Local Baths, Sports Centres, Information Bureaux, The Hackney Assn for the Welfare of Old People, Dalston Lane or Arts and Entertainments, Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old Street, EC1. (send sae).

## Other events

### HACKNEY WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

has started two courses for women:

**LOOKING AT WOMEN'S WRITING** meets fortnightly (Mon 13 & 27 Feb) at the Fire

Station, Leswin Road, N16.

**WOMEN'S WRITING WORKSHOP** is a 9 week course, meeting

every Thursday from 11.00am-

1.00pm at Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Road, E8.

Creche facilities are available. For more

information, ring Rebecca O'Rourke: 254 9632.

### ATTENTION ALL BRASS, WIND & PERCUSSION PLAYERS.

Hackney's own Socialist & Feminist Marching Band

rehearses every Wednesday

from 7.30 - 9.30pm at the Clissold Park School

Branch of the AEI, Clissold Road, N16. Players of all

abilities are welcome.

### PHOTOGRAPHY FOR WOMEN

Ten workshops are being run to develop basic photographic

skills and to discuss issues around photography. Starting

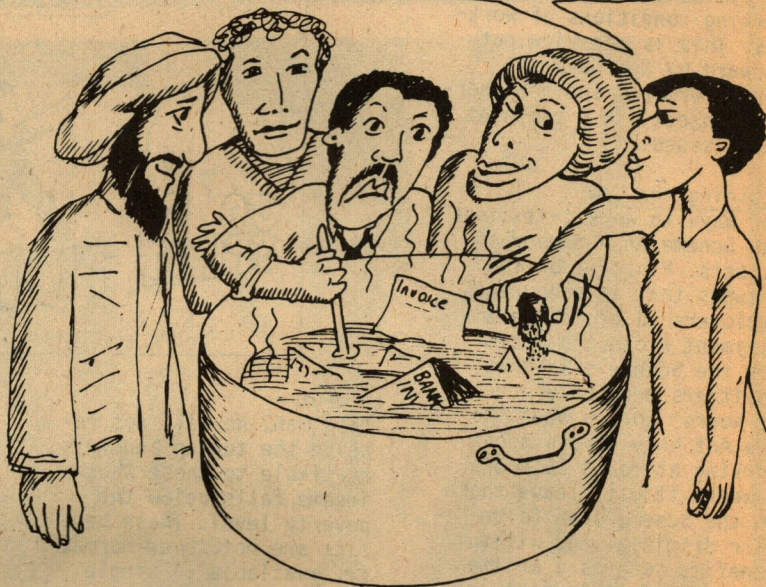
3 Feb. 2 sessions: 1-4pm, 6-9pm. Camera Darkroom, 121

Roman Road, E2. Tel 980 6256.

## review:

How to Manage Your Money, If You Have Any: An Accountancy Handbook for Community Organisations.

I'VE HEARD OF COOKING THE BOOKS, BUT THIS IS DELICIOUS!



This new booklet, written by Trefor Lloyd and Andreas Michaelides, is published by the Community Accountancy Project, in association with the Borough of Hackney and Hackney Community Action. HCA affiliated groups should already have received a copy, but its relevance is much wider. People setting up groups in Hackney as well as existing and prospective groups in neighbouring boroughs could benefit from this new publication.

What then does the booklet cover? Well, any new group is obviously going to devote its energy to its main task, organising a nursery or whatever. At some point funds and a paid worker are likely to arise. How does the group handle these? Ignore them, hoping they'll take care of themselves? And then panic when the finances are in a mess and money has to be accounted for? Standard

accountancy books may be too heavy going or seem largely irrelevant to community groups.

The aim of the booklet is guide people (who have probably never had to cope with more than their own pay packet) through the financial maze. For instance, how to prepare a realistic budget, basic bookkeeping procedures, understanding bank statements, extracting information for others - and working out if you are overspending!

All this is done just about as clearly and painlessly as possible. An example from one local group is used throughout so that you can see how things look and follow them yourself.

Copies of the booklet can be obtained from the Community Accountancy Project, 34 Dalston Lane, E8 for £1.25 + 25p p&p. (249 7109).

## CHATS PALACE

Sat 8pm	5	<b>The G.L.C. Nuclear Bunker Party</b> (See programme news) £1.50/unwaged Free
Sun Noon	6	Lunchtime Jazz with <b>Ruthie Smith and friends</b> Free.
8pm		<b>"The G.L.C. Nuclear Bunker party"</b> .
Tues	8	7.30pm Under 17's Disco. 25p.
Thurs 8pm	10	Benefit for <b>Hackney Marsh Adventure Playground</b> . (Disco + Live band. Details to be announced.)
Fri 8pm	11	<b>Chats Showcase '82</b> . A revue of the best of '82. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 2pm	12	<b>Chats Showcase '82 Open House</b>
8pm		<b>Revue '82</b> . £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun Noon	13	<b>Chats Showcase '82</b>
8pm		Lunchtime Sing Song. Open house. Chats Knees up. Free.
Tues	15	7.30pm. Under 17's St. Valentines Disco. 25p.
Thurs 8pm	17	Benefit for <b>Hackney Big Flame</b> with <b>The Republic, King Biscuit Disco Kit</b> and <b>Chats Arkestra</b> . £2.50/£1 unwaged.
Fri 8pm	18	Reggae time with <b>Floyd Lloyd, Red Cloud + Amazula</b> . £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 8pm	19	Benefit for <b>Leabridge C.P. National Appeal "New Variety evening"</b> . (See programme news) £2.50/£1.50 unwaged.
Sun Noon	20	Lunchtime Jazz. <b>Ruthie Smith and friends</b> Free.
Tues	22	7.30pm. Under 17's Disco. 25p.
Thurs 1.30pm	24	<b>Chats Senior Citizens Club</b> present music from <b>Carol Calares</b> and <b>Peter King</b> . Free. All welcome. Live music with the <b>Guest Stars &amp; Hip Skats</b> . £2/£1 unwaged. (See programme news)
Fri 8pm	25	Benefit for <b>Triangle Music Workshop</b> . With <b>Cruzial, Black Shades, Sweet Distortion, Roots</b> and <b>Utopia</b> . £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 8pm	26	A Chats Night with the <b>Poison Girls</b> + support. £2.50/£1 unwaged. (See programme news)
Sun Noon	27	Lunchtime Jazz with the <b>Scratch Band</b> . Free.

**THE RIO**  
**FEBRUARY**

107 Kingsland High St, E8  
Tel: 254 6677  
249 2722

SUN 6	CELINE AND JULIE GO BOATING 3.00 Jacques Rivettes "joyful" portrayal of the ideas of Hollywood melodrama. A wonderful three hours.	SUN 6	SHASHI KAPOOR & APARNA SEN starring JENNIFER RENDAL
SUN 6	MRINAL SEN'S	TUE 8	36 Chowringhee Lane 8.45
MON 7	AND QUIET ROLLS THE DAWN 7.00	WED 9	
THU 10	Ken Loach's <b>LOOKS AND SMILES</b> 8.45	FRI 11	BILLY LIAR 7.00
SAT 12		SAT 12	FRIDAY MATINEE LOOKS AND SMILES 2.00 ALL TICKETS HALF PRICE!
SUN 13	LETTER FROM AN UNKNOWN WOMAN 2.30 A double bill of unrequited love and THIS SWEET SICKNESS 4.00 passion for St Valentines...	SUN 13	MY LOVE HAS BEEN BURNING (Sunday to Wednesday) 6.30
SUN 13	Karolyi Muller's <b>ANOTHER WAY</b> 8.15	TUE 15	
MON 14	FRIDAY MATINEE LORD OF THE FLIES 2.00 ALL TICKETS HALF PRICE!	WED 16	ANGI VERA (Thursday to Saturday) 6.30
TUE 15		THU 17	
FRI 18		FRI 18	
SAT 19		SAT 19	
SUN 20	RIO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2.00 Special showing of THE SMALLEST SHOW ON EARTH with Peter Sellers. See over for details.	SUN 20	HALF TERM MATINEE THE BATTLESTAR GALACTICA SAGA CONTINUES
SUN 20	<b>Diner</b> "Funny...Comically revealing, brilliantly inventive." 6.30 6.30	MON 21	CONQUEST
TUE 22		TUE 22	MONDAY TO SATURDAY at 2.30
WED 23		WED 23	
THU 24		THU 24	
FRI 25		FRI 25	
SAT 26		SAT 26	
SUN 27	OCTOBER 2.30 Two classic films by Eisenstein. October depicts TIME IN THE SUN 4.30 the Russian revolution of 1917. Exhilarating!!!	SUN 27	

**COMING SOON**  
**BATTLE OF ALGIERS**  
**The Draughtsmen's Contract**  
**XOL**

TICKETS: £2.00 (£1.00 under 16's; £0.50 OAP's; UB40s £1.00 Mondays.)



# Job Splitting slammed

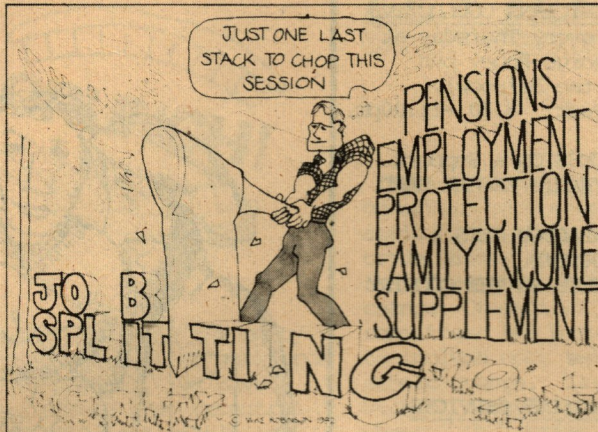
The Government's Job Splitting Scheme which was introduced last month is a new threat to the rights and working conditions of workers. This is the view put forward by New Ways to Work (formerly The Job Sharing Project) in a pamphlet just issued.

## Avoiding the Law

New Ways to Work criticises the Scheme on a number of aspects. Firstly, on the grounds that it encourages employers to avoid the Employment Protection Act. For the Scheme says that splitters need only have 15 hours' work a week. As the Act only covers those working at least 16 hours a week, it will leave those on the Scheme open to unfair dismissal and without benefits such as a written contract of employment, redundancy pay, maternity leave and pay, etc.

## More Money on the Dole

Secondly, as job splitting will probably only be found in low-level and low-paid jobs, those joining the Scheme may well be worse off financially than if they had stayed on the dole. Although an individual supposedly volunteers for a vacancy on the Scheme, there is no official guarantee that unemployed people who turn down the offer of a split job won't have their benefit payments stopped. If the job splitter is a mar-



ried man, he will not receive the top-up benefits available to those whose income falls below the poverty level. These benefits are not, even normally, available to single people and working wives.

## Pay kept low

The Scheme may also encourage employers to keep pay low (i.e. below £29.50 a week) to avoid payment of National Insurance contributions. By doing so, the workers involved will lose their future entitlement to dole payments, state sick pay, state maternity pay and eventually their state pension. Thus, as the Report points out, discrimination of state benefits against part-time workers is allowed to continue under the Scheme.

## Trade Unions need Policy

Where job splitting is used as an alternative to redundancy, New Ways to Work urges the Union(s) involved to make sure that the rights of workers to redundancy payments are safeguarded if the firm does eventually close. This means them evolving a proper job sharing policy for members who choose to undertake part-time work. The Report comments that some trade unions have been very half-hearted about this.

## No Help to Part-Timers

Another major criticism that can be made of the Job Splitting Scheme is its insistence that one person in any job splitting pair must be either unemployed and receiving benefit, or under a formal redundancy notice. This will in effect exclude from

the Scheme all those who are genuinely looking for part-time work - such as most unemployed women. It will also in turn, take away from employers their right to choose the best person for the job whether coming from the dole queue or not.

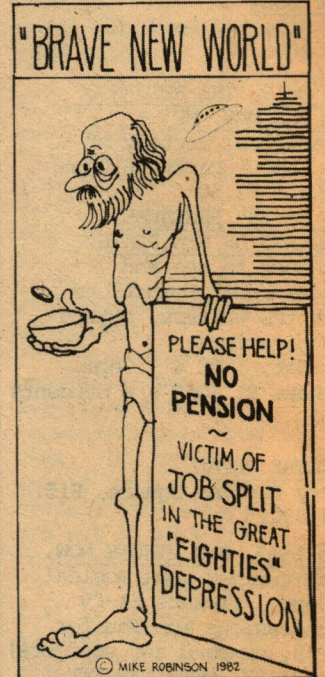
## Profitable

An incentive for employers to participate in the Scheme is the grant of £750 promised for each person who is recruited from the ranks of the unemployed or redundant. The Government far from loses on this offer. "A quick example", says the Report, "shows that if 2 people receiving benefit of, say, £36 a week each then split a job, the Government would save £3744 in benefit over a year, while paying out only £750 in grant to the employer." The extra costs to the employer by splitting a job are, in fact minimal. Training could be expensive but there is no obligation under the Scheme for firms to provide this. In any event, with the low level of work probably on offer, the cost of training is going to be very small.

## Conclusion

"The Trade Unions," suggests New Ways to Work, "should take a lead to stop full-time workers from being forced into split jobs, while at the same time make sure that the rights of voluntary part-timers are protected." At the local level, Hackney Job Share Project has come out strongly against the Scheme: 'Job sharing offers a fair deal to people to people who need part-time

work (especially parents)... Job splitting is a way of making people who want full-time work take part-time jobs. People who need part-time work won't be working at all.' Or, as David Basnett (TUC Economic Committee's Chair) has concluded: "(Job splitting) is a transparent gimmick to offset the appalling jobless figures."



"JOB SHARING V JOB SPLITTING" is published by New Ways to Work, 347A Upper Street, N1. The Hackney Job Share Project is based at Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old Street, EC1. Tel: 739 0741. They have a number of publications on different aspects of job sharing. There is also available, for free loan to Hackney groups, a video programme and a portable exhibition.



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- Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

After three very encouraging months, donations to HPP's Crunch Fund slowed right down in January. We received just under £50 in total - enough to take us to £345 so far raised. So we have still some way to go to reach the £500 that we must raise to keep HPP alive and pay off all our debts.

If you have not yet sent us a donation, then please do so now. Every penny is needed. No sum is too small.

What ideally we would like is more guaranteed income, and the easiest way in which you can help us is by making out a Banker's Order in our favour. Then we know that we can rely on a certain amount of income each year -

and you can rest easy, without worrying whether you've remembered to make your regular donation to HPP, because your bank has done it for you!

And if you send us £10, we'll automatically make you a Special Supporting Subscriber (or you can send £1 a month, if you prefer, by Bankers Order). This means that you not only get a subscription copy of HPP once a month but you also get a free invitation or ticket to any event that we organise during they year. Special Supporting Subscribers will get their first bonus from this outstanding offer with a free ticket to the HPP Benefit at Chats Palace on 4<sup>th</sup> March (see page 7).

- \* I would like to make a regular donation by Banker's Order.
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Please pay to the account of Hackney People's Press, Co-operative Bank PLC, 78-80 Cornhill, London EC3V 3NJ, (08-02-28) account number 67012154 the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ on the (date) \_\_\_\_\_ 1982, and every month/year (delete whichever not applicable) on the same day thereafter until otherwise notified.

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Please send the completed form to HPP, 47a Grayling Road, London N.16, and we will send it on to your bank.

## PARTNERSHIP: THE FUTURE

Hackney Community Action have just produced a consultative paper for local groups on the future of Partnership. HCA are concerned that the community should for a change have an influence on any alterations in the form of urban aid that Government dishes out to deprived areas.

## Heseltine legacy

The Government currently has a select committee reviewing Partnership, perhaps based on Heseltine's work in Liverpool. This would mean local teams of civil servants acting as catalysts galvanising local government and voluntary organisations into working more effectively. HCA thinks that Partnership, whatever its faults, at least leaves control in local hands: "Any plan to rejuvenate (to put back life into an inner city area) can only succeed if the people of the area (the life of that area) are fully involved. . . Gradually, people who don't think of starting workshops or economic projects are starting to do so. This area of activity must continue to be supported."

These projects that create some jobs must not be jeopardised by lack of capital support".

The document does however criticise the limited resources - quickly eaten up by some large projects - the bureaucratic administration, and the lack of commitment to the reality of long-term unemployment. Furthermore the multi-ethnic composition of the Borough also needs to be reflected in the way decisions are made.

## Local control needed

"Basically," concludes the report, "we don't want a top-down controlling structure. This is not because we are not up there controlling it. It is because long experience shows that that method of pretending to involve people just doesn't work. The extra resources available through the poverty programme should be linked to decentralisation."

It suggests that the Hackney Goes Local decentralisation programme provides a highly relevant model on how to involve the community in health/education/employment.